NCAIR

North Carolina Association for Institutional Research

Newsletter

President's Corner

It was nice seeing those who were able to make the Southern Association for Institutional Research Conference in Little Rock, AR. Dana Dalton, NCAIR Program Chair and Nancy Floyd, SCAIR Program Chair as well as their joint planning committee are hard at work putting together a tremendous conference for us in April. Make your hotel reservation now by calling 1-800-359-7951**.** The Conference hotel room rate is only $129 per night and space is limited.

We have one of the most talented state associations, so take a moment and submit a conference proposal and share your unique expertise. The deadline to submit a conference proposal is **December 15, 2007**. For those offices with limited budgets, be sure to check out our NCAIR Travel Grant Application included in this newsletter. The deadline for travel grants is **February 8, 2008.**

People retiring and transitions in various offices across the state have left our membership roster somewhat incomplete. If you know of any person new to Institutional Research, new to this state, or someone who for some reason is not getting this newsletter and would like to be included in the distribution list, please email Brian Rolfe (BRolfe@SEBTS.edu) or me (mhadley@methodist.edu).

Michael
NCAIR President

From the Program Chair

Dear Fellow NCAIR members and friends:

Academic year 2007-2008 has started with its usual fervor and pitch.
We are updating our strategic plans, submitting our data to IPEDS and for many of us, preparing for SACS.

NCAIR is busily preparing for the celebration of NCAIR's 35th Anniversary in 2008 as we join with SCAIR for our Joint Conference, April 7-9 in Asheville, NC. The Conference will have something for everyone, programmers, web designers, assessment, planning and of course, institutional researchers. The theme is "Combining our Strength in Numbers".

We are fortunate to have as our invited speakers, Dr. Belle Wheelan, President of SACS, (http://www.sacscoc.org/president.asp); Dr. Eric Dey, Associate Professor of Education at the University of Michigan (http://www-personal.umich.edu/~dey/); and Dr. John Gardner, Executive Director of the Policy Center on the First Year of College (http://www.firstyear.org/staff/john.html).
All three are highly regarded in higher education and will share their experiences and insights.

The rest is up to us. I strongly encourage you all to submit papers, proposals, work shares and demonstrations in one of the Program Tracks. We all do incredible work that is worthy of sharing with each other. There are other opportunities to be a part of the conference as well. We need facilitators and persons to serve on the program and conference planning committees. Please get involved.

The Call for Proposals in included in this newsletter as in the hotel information. Please make your reservations now as we are anticipating a large number of attendees. The hotel rate will increase substantially after the cut-off date for reservations.

Conference registration will be available early next year.
http://www.clemson.edu/oir/SCAIR/2008Conference.htm

I look forward to working with each of you and indeed your attendance in Asheville.

Dana L. Dalton
NCAIR Program Chair

2008 NCAIR & SCAIR JOINT CONFERENCE
April 7-9, 2008
Asheville Renaissance Hotel
Asheville, NC
"COMBINING OUR STRENGTH IN NUMBERS"

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

All of us work on a variety of projects during the year and have either unique insights and /or techniques that our colleagues at other institutions would find invaluable. To make this joint conference as beneficial, informative and enjoyable as possible, we need your contributions.

There are several opportunities in which to participate: Work Shares, Demonstrations, Panel Discussions, and Paper Sessions. You are invited to submit a proposal or serve as a facilitator at the 2008 Joint Conference.

Program Tracks:

Informing Institutional Management & Planning - Research and practice related to campus-level planning, evaluation, and management including the types of information and analyses that support institutional policy- and decision-making, strategic planning, resource allocation, organizational quality and change. *Topics include:* Enrollment management (including retention studies); quality improvement; strategic planning; fiscal, physical and human resource planning and allocation; campus policy formulation; institutional comparisons and performance indicators; organizational management and change; leadership; institutional effectiveness; and service and outreach.

Practicing Institutional Research: Theory, Techniques, Technologies, Tools & Ethics - Research and presentations related to the practice of institutional research, including organizational, ethical, methodological, and technological aspects of the profession. *Topics include*: Organizing, managing, and evaluating IR offices and functions; academic preparation and professional development for IR; effective communication strategies and presentation techniques; ethical and political dimensions of IR practice; statistics, research, and reporting methods; and campus information systems including information technologies for IR work, data administration, warehousing and data mining.

Assessing Student Learning & Program Outcomes - Research and practice related to assessing student learning outcomes; student intellectual development; quantitative and qualitative measures of student learning; psychometric evaluation and testing; and improvement in academic programs and related student experiences resulting from assessment of student learning in academic and co-curricular programs. *Topics include*: The relationship between institutional research and the assessment of student learning; student learning outcomes standards in accreditation; best practices in conducting assessment studies; assessment of general education; assessment of academic programs; and ties between assessment results and measuring institutional effectiveness.

Enhancing the Student Experience - Research and practice related to student development and the impact of the student experience outside the classroom, such as quantitative and qualitative measures of personal, social, and life skill development; campus/community engagement; program improvements based on assessments of student needs, as well as demographic and economic issues; student mobility and flow; and student satisfaction with the higher education experience. *Topics include***:** Campus diversity and respect for individual differences, student expectations and satisfaction; participation in campus activities and/or learning experiences outside the classroom; non-academic program/service contributions to retention/graduation rates; the campus climate, changing student profiles; serving students with special needs; patterns of student behavior; impacts of the changing environment on student behavior; and current issues relating to the overall student experience.

Facilitator

Facilitators are responsible for introducing presenters, facilitating discussion, and ensuring session evaluations are administered and collected. If you would like to serve as a facilitator, please contact Dana L. Dalton, daltond@wssu.edu.

To Submit a Proposal:

(1) Prepare a **Proposal Cover Sheet**. Use the form on the website or prepare an equivalent document containing all information specified on the attached form.

(2) Prepare a **Presentation Abstract** of 100 – 200 words, double-spaced**,** 12-point type. The closer to 100 words the better, as the abstract for all accepted proposals will be used for the conference program. Be sure to include the session title as it should appear in the abstract. **DO NOT INCLUDE PRESENTER NAMES OR INSTITUTIONS IN THE ABSTRACT**.

(3) Send both the Proposal Cover Sheet and Presentation Abstract to Dana L. Dalton **and** Kendrick Tatum either by email or fax:

E-mail: daltond@wssu.edu and Kendrick.Tatum@Duke.edu

Fax: (336) 750.2113

2008 JOINT CONFERENCE PROPOSAL COVER PAGE
Deadline: December 14, 2007

All proposals should include (as applicable): the objective, purpose, key points, issues, results and/or conclusions, methodologies, target audience and who was/is involved.

1. TITLE OF SESSION:

2. PRIMARY PRESENTER:

   POSITION:

   INSTITUTION:

   MAILING ADDRESS:

   TELEPHONE NUMBER:

   FAX NUMBER:

   EMAIL ADDRESS:

3. Additional Co-presenter(s)/Panelists (List name, title, and institution of other authors, panelists, or presenters in this space.)

4. SESSION TRACK:
   ____ Informing Institutional Management & Planning
   ____ Practicing Institutional Research: Theory, Techniques, Technologies, Tools & Ethics
   ____ Assessing Student Learning & Program Outcomes
   ____ Enhancing the Student Experience

5. TYPE AND LENGTH OF SESSION PROPOSED (Check all that applies):

Session	Require Internet	Overhead Needed
Contributed Paper		
Demonstration		
Panel		
Work Share		

6. EQUIPMENT/TECHNOLOGY NEEDS: An LCD projector and screen will be in each session room. **Please note Internet connections are limited so please request internet usage only if absolutely necessary**. Overhead projectors will be available upon prior reservation only**.**

Panels (45 minutes)
Panel presentations involve three or four persons who present different perspectives on a common theme or topic. The proposal should describe the common theme/topic and the major points of discussion. The proposal should also describe how each panelist contributes a different perspective to the session.

Papers (45 minutes)
Papers should describe a research study or an effective process or technique (quantitative or qualitative), present a theoretical approach to a problem or issue, or review the literature on a topic of interest to institutional researchers.

Software Demonstrations (45 minutes)
Presentations should demonstrate software packages or programming solutions that are applicable to the work of institutional researchers. The proposal should describe the relative strengths, weaknesses, and special features of the product or solution. The presenter should also discuss the hardware required for the software/solution. If Internet access is needed, please request such access during the proposal process (see box on Proposal Page).

Work Shares (45 minutes)
Work Shares should describe a research study or an effective process or technique (quantitative or qualitative), or present a theoretical approach to a problem or issue. No official paper is expected at the time of the presentation, though the presenter(s) should have copies of relevant materials to distribute.

NCAIR 2007-08 TRAVEL GRANT REQUEST FORM

Name:

Institution:

Amount Requested (Maximum of $200):

Please describe the financial need and the financial support, if any, available from your institution.

How will receiving this grant contribute to your professional development, particularly with regard to current and future activity in NCAIR?

Please attach a brief resume/curriculum vita to this form and mail, fax, or e-mail to the NCAIR Travel Grant Committee Chair named below on or before the date noted for the conference you plan to attend: **February 8, 2008 (NCAIR/SCAIR Annual Conference)**.

NCAIR Travel Grant Committee
ATTN: Heather Langdon
Institutional Research, Assessment & Planning
ASU Box 32078
Appalachian State University
Boone, NC 28608-2078
Fax 828-262-3065
langdonhh@appstate.edu

For more information about NCAIR Travel Grants, go to:
http://www.ncair.net/travel_grants.htm